

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

MINUTES

JUNE 8, 2000

EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY AUDITORIUM
Rockville, Maryland

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Gordon A. Aoyagi, Chair
Anita Powell, Vice Chair
Fernando Bren
Leonard J. Marco
Ronald Ogens
Tom Carr
Paul Sterling, Jr.

STAFF PRESENT:

Neil Shorb, Staff Director
Beth Feldman, Administrative Specialist
Theresa Hale, Office Services Coordinator
Richard Melnick, OCA

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marcine Goodloe, Montgomery County Fire Board
Jo and Don Phillips, Kensington VFD
Nancy Stasulis, Laytonsville VFD
William Wells
Eileen Queenin, DFRS
Luella W. Mast, Montgomery County League of Women Voters
Chief Donald Flinn, Silver Spring VFD
Joe Chornock, Germantown VFD
President Eric Bernard, Rockville VFD
Chief Thomas E. Jones, Glen Echo VFD
Garry Walker, Gaithersburg-Washington Grove VFD
Chief Roger W. Strock, DFRS
Steven Kurtz, Gaithersburg- Washington Grove VFD
Darlene Flynn, MCFRS
Cheryl Reed, MCFRS
District Chief Andy Johnston, DFRS
Steve Lamphier, MCFRS
Amy Davis, Local 1664
George Giebel, MCFRS
Chief David S. Dwyer, DVFRS
President Robert Kidd, Chevy Chase FD
Chief S. Darron Long, Damascus VFD
Chief Dennis Urban, Bethesda FD
President Virginia Miller, Bethesda FD
Captain David Steckel, DFRS
John Ferguson, MCVFRA/Rockville VFD
Assistant Chief Roger McGary, DFRS
District Chief Mike Clemens, DFRS
Duty Chief Erik Stromberg, Cabin John Park VFD
Minna Davidson, Council Staff

100 - CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission was called to order by Chairman Aoyagi at 7:05 p.m. in the Lobby Auditorium of the Executive Office Building in Rockville, Maryland.

Chair Aoyagi reported Commissioner Freeman had an excused absence for tonight's meeting.

The Fire Administrator asked that the record should show that previous request for an excused absence from a Commissioner be denoted as an excused absence in the minutes.

101- Report of Executive Session May 11, 2000

Fire Administrator Aoyagi announced that per Maryland State Government Article § 10-508(a)(1), The Commission held a closed session on May 11, 2000 at 9:15 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Executive Office Building, Rockville, Maryland. In attendance were Fire Administrator Aoyagi and Commissioners Bren, Carr, Marco, Ogens, Powell, and Sterling; Mr. Shorb and Mrs. Cheng of the Commission staff. The motion to adjourn to a closed session was made by Commissioner Ogens, seconded by Commissioner Sterling and passed. Two personnel matters were discussed.

102- Report of the Chairman

- *Council Bill 3-00*

Chair Aoyagi reported the Council passed Bill 3-00 with a vote of 7-0. Bill 3-00 promotes a property tax incentive for the installation of sprinklers in single family residential structures as well as for the retrofit of sprinklers for existing multi-family residential units.

- *Graphic Standard*

Handouts were distributed. Chair Aoyagi reported he will present a proposal on a policy for Graphic Standard at the July Operations Committee. He advised the entire service would have an opportunity to comment.

- *All American Community Award*

Fire Administrator Aoyagi reported that Montgomery County was recently designated as a recipient for the All American Community Award.

- *Strategic Planning Convocation – June 10, 2000*

Chair Aoyagi reminded everyone the Strategic Planning Convocation is set for June 10, 2000 at the University of Maryland at Shady Grove. The convocation is scheduled from 8:30AM to 4:00PM.

- *FY00 Apparatus Acquisition Update*

Chair Aoyagi reported there is an estimated balance of \$200,000 remaining in the unexpended FY00 apparatus acquisition funds to purchase apparatus replacement. He provided a memorandum outlining the purchase of a brush truck, an additional EMS unit, and a cargo van.

- *Apparatus Replacement Schedule Update*

The Fire Administrator distributed an updated apparatus replacement schedule for FY01.

- Gaithersburg-Washington Grove VFD FY00 Third Quarter Analysis

The Fire Administrator provided an update regarding the 3rd quarter allocation of \$46,500 to GWGVFD. A memorandum was distributed describing this matter in more detail.

Commissioner Bren proposed a section for Commissioners' comments be added to future FRC agendas. He suggested another FRC retreat be scheduled to discuss the role of the FRC and its committees, and the role of the committees vs. the role of staff. The Fire Administrator suggested a retreat in August and asked the Commissioners if consideration should be given to rotating membership on the committees.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi advised an executive session under item 600 will follow immediately after the regular FRC session.

103- Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2000 Meeting

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Bren to approve the minutes of May 11, 2000 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Ogens and PASSED unanimously.

200- CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Carr requested item 202 be pulled from the consent calendar for discussion.

201- Creation of Box Area 26-22

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to approve item 201 – Creation of Box Area 26-22 of the Consent Calendar. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Marco and PASSED unanimously.

202- Apparatus/VehicleDisposition

Commissioner Carr questioned the sale of the 1992 Dodge van to the Hyattstown VFD. He inquired whether an inventory of their vehicles has been analyzed. Mr. Lamphier responded that the 1992 Dodge van is not considered a part of their actual fleet since fuel and insurance are not funded with tax funds. President Day of the Hyattstown VFD reported the Chief's vehicle is a 1990 Jeep Cherokee which required higher maintenance and was funded with tax funds. The Hyattstown VFD has already disposed of this vehicle.

Mr. Lamphier reported the Kensington VFD sent a memo to the Fire Administrator requesting to retain the 1983 Seagrave pumper and to maintain it as a reserve engine throughout the County.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Carr to approve the apparatus/vehicle disposition, with the exception of item #7927214 – 1992 Dodge van (no sale at this

time until the need of the HVFD is determined) and item #1832005 - 1983 Seagrave Pumper (the proposed disposition to Owings Mills VFC would not be approved at this time). MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Ogens and PASSED unanimously.

300- FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

301- Operations

Committee Chair Ogens reported the Operations Committee met on June 7, 2000. Items discussed at the meeting were:

- Final Report on Water Supply Study Implementation Work Group
- Request from the Glen Echo VFD to discontinue large boat service and to purchase a Jon Boat with motor and a boat support unit. This matter has been referred to Chief Strock for more research
- Graphic Standard for Fire and Rescue Apparatus – this issue will be discussed at the Operations Committee meeting in July
- Update on METRO SOP Revision
- Update on Laytonsville VFD Tanker/Engine

302- Human Resources, Safety and Training

Committee Chair Powell reported the Human Resources, Safety and Training Committee met on June 5, 2000. Items discussed at the meeting were: Revision to LOSAP program; briefing on medical standards for volunteer EMS providers only by Mr. Gene Carmean from MEDTOX, updates on Driver Training Manual, Community Fire and Safety day, Wellness Initiative and an update on the LOSAP Study.

303- Finance, Technology and Planning

Committee Chair Bren reported the FTP Committee met on May 18, 2000. The Finance Subcommittee is in the process of organizing a task group to look at the long-term issues impact duplications of the Senator Amoss funds. The Planning Subcommittee is proceeding with various meetings with realtors, land acquisition people regarding the station location and resource allocation, and a possible perspective relocation of Station 18. The Technology Subcommittee continues working on information on technology strategic planning. The Apparatus/Facilities Subcommittee is looking at criteria issues for EMS unit replacement and various related issues.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi briefed the Commissioners on the activities planned for the strategic planning convocation on June 10, 2000.

400- BUSINESS ITEMS

401- MCFRS Insurance Renewal for FY01

Commissioner Marco gave a background on the insurance renewal for MCFRS. He reported that a discussion ensued regarding a proposal for earthquake and flood insurance program as well as underground storage tank coverage.

Mr. Shorb welcomed Ms. Mandell from Willis Insurance of MD to tonight's meeting. He gave a briefing on the MCFRS Insurance Renewal for FY01.

Ms. Mandell gave a comparison between VFIS vs. Provident insurance program.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Ogens to authorize the placement of the Accident and Sickness Policy with Provident Insurance. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Bren to adopt the FY01 MCFRS insurance renewal as proposed. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Marco and PASSED unanimously.

402- Revisions to LOSAP Program

Commissioner Powell requested that Ms. Goodloe give a presentation on the revisions to LOSAP Program as a representative of the MCVFRA.

Ms. Goodloe raised a number of issues regarding the proposed LOSAP regulation. The proposed changes to the LOSAP program were resolved:

- page 1, sec.2 – Applicability: The paragraph should read: *This regulation applies to all current and former local fire and rescue volunteers, local fire and rescue departments and appropriate Montgomery County Government agencies.*
- page 2, sec.3.g: strike *as defined in County Code, Chapter 21*
- page 3, sec.4.a, 1st paragraph: Eligibility to Participate is proposed to read as followed: *A volunteer is eligible for the LOSAP program if he/she is an active volunteer and was at least 16 on or after August 15, 1965, or if on August 15, 1965, he/she had completed 25 years of service as an active volunteer. To be eligible for the LOSAP program, active volunteers, enrolled in high school, who are 16 years or older, must obtain parental consent to join a LFRD and maintain a 2.0 grade point average or equivalent during each grading period in the calendar year.*
- page 4, sec.4.4.A.iii: change *44 hours* to *45 hours* (to be consistent with Chapter 21)
- page 4, sec.4.4.A.iv: substitute *of 45 hours* with *over 45 hours*; strike *or longer duration*
- page 5, sec.4.7.B – second sentence: add *of positions* after *approved list*
- page 7, sec.4.9 – Point Awards Schedule: change number 499 to 7499
- page 9, sec.5.b: add a new sentence after item 3: *Length of service benefits under subsection a. must not be paid to volunteers who are receiving award payments under this subsection.*
- page 12, sec.8.b.1: insert *the FRC and other* between *with* and *appropriate*
- page 12, sec.8.b.2: insert *with recommendations of the FRC* after *service budget*

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Sterling to approve the LOSAP regulation as amended. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Marco and PASSED unanimously.

403- Pending Issues – FY00 Amoss Fund Allocations

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Marco to approve the recommendation of the Senator Amoss Fund Committee totaling \$118,550 as follows: Gaithersburg-Washington Grove VFD - \$22,000; Laytonsville VFD – \$68,000; Sandy Spring VFD - \$23,000; Silver Spring VFD – \$5,550. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Carr and PASSED unanimously.

500- FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES REPORTS

501- DVFRS Chief

Chief Dwyer reported there are 11 teams in the Total Team Challenge Day this year. There are no LFRD teams participating in this year's event.

Chief Dwyer reported there were no response from vendors on the Request For Proposal for Consultant for the LOSAP Program. He will be looking into it further, with the procurement office.

502- DFRS Chief

Chief Strock reported the graduation is scheduled for June 28 for these following classes: EMT-Paramedic; EMT-B; Essentials of Firefighting. He also advised Recruit Class 17 graduates on June 23.

Chief Strock announced the retirement of Assistant Chief Henry, District Chiefs Isaacs and Mulhall, and Firefighter III Edwards.

He also reported the High School Cadet graduation took place on May 25, 2000.

503- Report of the Fire Board

Mr. Bernard reported the Fire Board discussed the interim policy change with regard to graphic standard on tax funded apparatus at the 6/7/00 meeting. The Fire Board raised concerns that the FRC should be the decision-maker on policies as opposed to the Fire Administrator.

Mr. Bernard reported the Fire Board raised concerns over the half-hour time allotted for the conference with the Attorney General regarding the State of Maryland Open Meeting Compliance Board which was originally scheduled for tonight at 6:30PM prior to the regular FRC session.

Mr. Bernard advised that the Apparatus Specifications Committee should be served with an equal match of career and volunteer representatives.

Fire Administrator Aoyagi replied that it was the Attorney General's decision to request the half-hour time frame for the meeting. He also advised the Apparatus Specifications Committee consists of an equal balance of career and volunteer representatives.

504- Report of the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association

FRC Meeting
June 8, 2000

Dr. Wilson requested Chief Strock provide him with an update on the status of the allegation that a career employee was discouraging volunteer fundraising activities.

505- Report of the Montgomery County Career Fire Fighters

There was no report.

A MOTION was made by Commissioner Bren to adjourn the meeting and recess the Commission into Executive Session. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Sterling and PASSED unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon A. Aoyagi,
Fire Administrator